

## **Posing the Bird in a Cage**

1. Open the cage door
2. Turn your arm so that the bird enters the cage head first
3. Rotate the bird once it is in the cage so that it is facing you
4. Set the bird down and pose it (head up and tail at the correct angle for the breed of chicken)
5. Close the cage door and take a step back

When the judge tells you, you can remove your bird from the cage.

1. Open the cage door
2. Put one hand under the bird and one hand on it's back
3. Take the bird out head first
4. Close the cage door

## **Posing the Bird on a Table**

1. Place the bird on the table so that it is facing the judge
2. Pose the bird just like you would if it were in a cage
3. When the judge asks, pick up your bird

## **Examining a Chicken**

1. Over all look at your bird
2. Eyes- blindness, bleaching, and color
3. Comb- texture and abnormalities
4. Wattles- texture and abnormalities
5. Head feathers- molting
6. Beak- abnormalities and check for the color of the beak
7. Earlobes- color for the breed standard and bleaching
8. Neck- smoothness and check for molting
9. Back- length and width of bird, molting, skin color, abnormalities, and size
10. Tail feathers- molting and feather condition

Flip the bird upside down with it's back against your chest

11. Vent- check for mites and lice and bleaching
12. 'Handling quality'- thickness or thinness
13. Pubic bones- thickness and flexibility, which indicates laying ability
14. Abdominal capacity- laying ability
15. Abdomen- hardness or softness, hard would mean that the bird is not laying, and check the feathers for feather condition and molting
16. Thighs- meat content
17. Shanks- cleanliness, scaly leg mites, and bleaching
18. Toes- number of toes, condition of the toenails, defects, bleaching, and straightness
19. Foot pad- defects and check for bleaching
20. Breast- straightness and length, check for breast blisters, other defects, and meat content
21. Wings- molting and mites and lice
22. Crop- abnormalities
23. Tilt the bird back upright and stand at attention